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# THE FRIDAY LETTER

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## NAWD Meets in Washington

by Donna Hines, SFPD

The 8th annual meeting of the National Association of WIC Directors (NAWD) was held in Washington, February 17-20, 1991. The theme of this year's conference was "Meeting the Challenge." Numerous Departmental and Agency staff, including outgoing Secretary **Clayton Yeutter**, Assistant Secretary **Catherine Bertini**, and Administrator **Betty Jo Nelsen**, participated in key events of the meeting. Some 600 delegates from WIC's 86 State agencies and 1800 locals attended the conference, along with representatives from other Federal agencies such as DHHS' Maternal and Child Health Bureau, advocacy groups such as the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and various industries affiliated with the WIC Program. Seminars on issues of concern to WIC administrators were held throughout the conference.

**Bertini** delivered the keynote address at the opening session on Sunday afternoon, reminding the audience that President **Bush** is committed to the WIC Program as a vital element in his campaign to improve the nutritional status of children, as evidenced by his inclusion of the largest-ever proposed increase in WIC appropriations in the 1992 Budget (\$223 million over 1991). WIC is one of very few domestic spending programs to receive a proposed increase this year.

**Bertini** also discussed the ways in which the Department has followed

through on commitments made at the 1990 NAWD meeting in New Orleans, primarily in the areas of **program expansion, commitment to children, and coordination**. She went on to congratulate NAWD for its efforts over

1974), and anticipatory (focusing on the importance of WIC as an empowering instrument for low-income parents and their children). He emphasized the need for more efficient use of available funds through increased/en-

hanced technology, and congratulated the State and local delegates on their dedication to and successful stewardship of one program which has been proven to be both effective and efficient in realizing its objectives.

As the self-styled "clean up batter," **Betty Jo Nelsen** delivered the conference's closing address and presented a number of National awards to State and local agencies who have demonstrated significant progress or implemented innovative approaches to better program operation and administration. **Nel-**

**sen** reiterated the partnership approach, and encouraged States to continue to work with FNS in finding the best possible solutions to problems that arise. She identified some of her primary WIC goals for the future, such as reasonable access to WIC benefits and services, humaneness (courtesy to applicants/participants), sensitivity to cultural differences, and timeliness of service, especially to pregnant women. Light-hearted and upbeat, **Nelsen's** remarks were a fitting note on which to close the conference.



(from left to right) **Robert Washington**, Deputy Administrator, SNP, **Dave Alspach**, RA-MPRO, **Betty Jo**, and **Terry Williams**, Wyoming WIC Director, at the NAWD Meeting.

the past year to promote a more cooperative atmosphere in identifying and accomplishing the common goals of the Department and the "front line" administrators: the State and local agency staffs and directors who see to it that WIC benefits actually get to those who need them. Outgoing Secretary **Yeutter** addressed attendees at breakfast on Wednesday morning. His remarks were both reminiscent (citing his pride in participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony which opened the very first WIC clinic in Pineville, Kentucky, in

## FNS Reconvenes the Breastfeeding Promotion Consortium

by Francesca Brava, SFPD

FNS believes that breastfeeding is the preferred method of infant nutrition and encourages participants in the WIC Program to breastfeed unless medically contraindicated. Recently, to support this emphasis, USDA has formed a Breastfeeding Promotion Consortium (BPC) and is developing a national campaign to promote breastfeeding.

The BPC is a consortium of 14 health professional, government and public health organizations convened by Assistant Secretary **Bertini** at the suggestion of the American Academy of Pediatrics to collaboratively promote breastfeeding. Members include such organizations as the American Academies of Pediatrics and of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Organization for Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nurses, the Association of Mater-

nal and Child Health Directors, DHHS, La Leche League International and the National Association of WIC Directors.

The Consortium held its second meeting in Washington, D.C. on February 20, coinciding with meetings of the National Association of WIC Directors and of the Maternal and Child Health Program State Directors. Ms. **Bertini** chaired the meeting.

At the initial BPC meeting, USDA, with the support and endorsement of the other members, agreed to accept lead responsibility for developing a national campaign to convince the general population that breastfeeding is the optimal method of infant feeding. The February 20 meeting had two primary goals: 1) to discuss FNS plans for the campaign; and 2) to obtain support for this effort from the Consortium member organizations. In particular, the discussion

focused on strategies for establishing a network of State and local coalitions made up of representatives of the groups present, to support the campaign and promote breastfeeding. **Marlene Guroff**, Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, presented the FNS campaign plan. **Dick Thaxton**, Director, OGAPI, discussed options currently being explored for funding the campaign.

In addition, the various Consortium members shared information on progress made by each organization on commitments made at the last meeting and other breastfeeding promotion activities. **Bertini** was very pleased with the sharing of ideas and the progress made by the Consortium in working together to improve national breastfeeding rates.

The Consortium will meet again some time in August to continue breastfeeding promotion efforts.

### "They Told Me I Would Never Walk Again!"

At 20 years of age, **Ed** was in a serious car accident. When he regained consciousness, he could not get up. He realized that he was paralyzed, but thought that it would be only temporary. **Ed** recalled what later happened in the hospital: "They told me I would never walk again!" He was paralyzed from the chest down.

**Ed** experienced physical complications with the spinal cord injury. **Ed** urges all disabled persons to become as *independent* as possible. "Try your best to do it yourself," he says, "and you will get a lot further." That is why, when leaving the hospital, the first thing he did was to equip his car with hand controls so that he could drive. Now **Ed** even uses a specially equipped truck in his successful janitorial business.

WHAT CAN BE DONE? One barrier for the disabled person might be said to be in the minds of those who are not disabled. The best way to remove this barrier is through understanding. Disabled persons want the same consideration and understanding that would be accorded a person with no physical disabilities.

Some people seem to feel threatened or uncomfortable when faced with someone with a disability. We must remember: "Actually all of us are impaired in some way. Some are just more impaired than others." Those who are disabled are simply persons who happen, for example, not be able to walk,

see, or hear as other people do. It is essential that we view any impairment as situational and see the total person.

"I appreciate it when people view me like anybody else," said **Ed**. "Look at me. Don't look at the chair." "The greatest compliment to a disabled person, is to relate to them as you would to anyone." **Ed** explains: "Most of my friends don't think of me as disabled. It's great that they think I don't need any help. I appreciate that, for then I feel that to them I am not disabled, but I am just another person."

HELP'S AVAILABLE! In recent years much progress has been made to help the physically impaired to enjoy *independent living*. Many public buildings and facilities are now designed to accommodate disabled persons. And today, quadriplegic may enjoy mobile *independence* in specially equipped cars and vans.

Food and Nutrition Service has also helped empower people to be independent, to control their own lives, to gain their own employment, their own income by hiring qualified people with disabilities.

Story Submitted by: Edna M. Alford  
Personnel Division  
756-3332



## Maddox to Retire March 9

by Abigail Nichols

**Duane Maddox** will retire March 9. Farewell activities include a luncheon on March 7 (see **Jim England**) and a reception on March 8.

Regional and headquarters quality control staff also honored Duane at a dinner February 6 during the recent quality control (QC) meetings in Alexandria.

**Duane** leaves FNS as "Mr. Quality Control" after nearly seven years of leadership as chief of the Food Stamp Quality Control Branch. QC culminated a Federal career that spanned many programs and issues. **Duane's** Federal service began in 1961 with Army duty in France and Germany. After graduating from the University of Utah with a degree in accounting, **Duane** joined USDA in 1968, auditing farm programs with the Inspector General's (IG) office in Denver.

**Duane** first dealt with the Food Stamp Program in 1974 in the IG's San Francisco office, and later as head of the IG's New England office in Boston. He joined FNS in 1977, and as chief of the program operations section in the FNS Western Region in San Francisco, his first task was to implement the major program changes mandated by the Food Stamp Act of 1977 such as the elimination of the purchase requirement. After a period as head of field operations in the Western Region, **Duane** came to headquarters in August 1981 on a 12 month detail as chief of the Food Stamp Store Supervision Branch, Federal Operations Division. He transferred to Washington permanently in 1983, serving first as the assistant to the Deputy Administrator for Family Nutrition Programs, and since August 1984, as Chief of the QC Branch.

**Duane's** career as chief of the Quality Control Branch has been remarkable. Under his leadership, the branch five million dollars in quality control claims while forging good relations with the States who did not want to pay. In October 1989 the National Association of Human Service Quality Control Directors honored **Duane** at their annual conference for "Enhancement and Enrichment of Federal/State Relations." **Duane** says this award is the highlight of his Federal career, proof that he could make Federal/State cooperation work.

**Duane's** fondest retirement goal is to move West and closer to his five grandchildren. First, however, he will join his wife, **Pat**, as a real estate agent for Coldwell Banker selling in the Northern Virginia area.

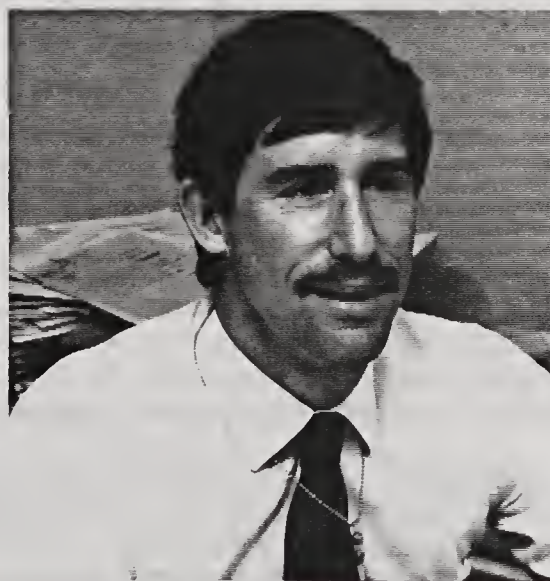
## Knaus to Head FSP QC at HQs

by Abigail Nichols

**John Knaus** will become chief of the Quality Control Branch, Program Accountability Division, Food Stamp Program, headquarters beginning March 10, 1991. After several years absence **John** is returning to the Food Stamp Program to take over the Quality Control reins from **Duane Maddox**, who is retiring March 9.

**Phyllis Gault**, Deputy Administrator, Food Stamp Program has noted how easy this transition will be. **John** is both an expert in quality control and an experienced manager.

**John Knaus'** 15-year career with FNS began with four years in the Quality Control Branch. Following passage of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, he worked on the regulations that put into place the basic features of the current quality control system. In 1980-1981, **John** worked for the State of New Mexico on an IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Act) assignment as the quality control director for the AFDC, Medicaid, and Food Stamp Programs. He also worked on the team that processed the first two rounds of State appeals of quality control liabilities to the Department's State Food Stamp Appeals Board. **John** later served as Chief of the HQs Food Stamp Program Evaluation Section. For the past three years he has been in the Office of Regional Operations and currently serves as coordinator of the APD handbook task force. A native of Detroit, **John** has a bachelor's degree in public administration from Michigan State and is the father of three children.



## EMPLOYEE PROFILE...

### Jonathan Lash

by Wini Scheffler

"Among the men, **Jonathan Lash** made the strongest impression vocally..." wrote Washington Post critic Joseph McLellan, on February 11, of Jonathan's recent performance as Lockit in "The Beggar's Opera."

A major critic's accolade for his first opera role was heady stuff for the Office of Analysis and Evaluation funds officer. But it's a logical progression in **Jonathan's** devoted pursuit of his musical avocation.

A graduate of Moravian College, Pennsylvania, where he earned a music degree, **Jonathan** has been singing in choral and theater ensembles and recitals since he moved back to this area in 1981. He is currently working on a Master of Arts in Music at George Mason University.

The sleazy stubble-faced petty bureaucrat that **Jonathan** portrayed in the Opera Americana productions of The Beggar's Opera at Alexandria's Gadsby's Tavern and the Atrium is a far cry from his workday character.

At FNS, where **Jonathan** began work in 1981 as a GS-2 clerk-typist, he's an upbeat guy who saw the opportunity to grow on the job, and honed his skills by earning a Master's in Public Administration.

"I earned my first graduate degree to advance at work," he says. "And I'm truly fortunate that I enjoy my job. I know struggling musicians who are waiting tables because they can't imagine any serious career outside music."

"I love music, but it's not like I wake up singing Faust! I use the same problem-solving skills at my job and my hobby. In either place, I really try to get it right the first time. If I do as well as I can in the time given, I don't have to apologize."

To get it right in his singing career, **Jonathan** had to tough out a period of 8 or 9 discouraging years, after his voice changed, when he claims people begged him not to sing. He began studying voice to relearn what "children don't have to be taught": how easy it is to sing.

"Rather than trying to control your voice or sound like someone else, it's really a matter of letting body and imagination work together," he says. Plus constant practice--**Jonathan** credits his ability to rehearse four nights a week to an understanding wife. A fifth-generation Alexandrian, **Jonathan** is the youngest of eight children of a musical family. He "grew up on the Kingston Trio and the Beatles." After graduating from Bishop Ireton High School, he attended Moravian College where his interest shifted to classical music.

Among the local ensembles **Jonathan** performs with are the Washington Men's Camerata, the **Paul Hill** Chorale, and the Oratorio Society of Washington. He is bass-baritone soloist for the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria. An especially cherished experience was singing with the Washington Opera chorus in last year's Kennedy Center production of "Aida."

In April, **Jonathan** will perform in **Handel's** Messiah at the Meeting House's Easter service, the **Mozart** Requiem with the George Mason University Symphonic Chorus, and a premiere of an original work by local composer **Russell Woollen** for the dedication of the new performing arts center at Northern Virginia Community College.



# Operation Desert Storm Update....

## Three HQ's Employees Called to Active Duty

- **Constance J. Hardy** a Food Programs Specialist in the Supplemental Foods Program Division was called to active reserve duty in the U.S. Army for a period not to exceed a year. **Ms. Hardy**, whose specialty is food service, is currently mobilized at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC. All of **Ms. Hardy's** friends are looking forward to her speedy return.

- WIC Food Program Specialist, **Patty Cunningham**, is helping alleviate "stateside" military personnel shortages resulting from Operation Desert Storm. **Patty**, an Army reservist, is currently serving a short tour as a military dietitian for DeWitt Army Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Her duties at the hospital include counseling patients with special dietary needs as well as supervising the dining facility which serves approximately 300-400 individuals per meal. We, at FNS, hope to have **Patty** back with us, shortly.

- **Charles L. Rush**, a Food Program Specialist in the Child Nutrition Division, was called to active duty for a period of no more than one year. His initial destination is Camp Le Juene, N.C. **Charles** is a member of the 24 Dental Company, Anacostia Navy & Marine Corps Reserve. **Charles** is already missed by his friends and co-workers, and they look forward to his return.

## Hot Off the Press...

The Des(s)ert Shield Cook(ie) Book, compiled by the FNS Cookie Committee, is a collection of recipes of the cookies that were sent to the desert. In addition, names and addresses of soldiers, and their letters back to FNS are included. This cookbook is dedicated to all the men and women in the U.S. military in Saudi Arabia, Operation Desert Shield. A special thanks to all the FNS employees who contributed to this effort! If you would like a copy, please call Mary Morris, OGAPI, 756-3276.

### *Des(s)ert Shield Cook(ie) Book*



*A compilation by the employee volunteers of the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.*

## ATTENTION...

In the next issue of the Friday Letter (March 8), we would like to run photos of employees, relatives, or friends serving in Desert Storm. We will not cut these photos or damage them in any way. If you'd like to submit a photo, please send it to the Editor, Friday Letter, Room 819. If you have a question, please call 756-3286.

Thanks!

## Operation Desert Storm Update (cont.)

- Assistant Secretary **Bertini** sent this flyer to various institutions, agencies and organizations involved in assisting families. These organizations included the American Legion, American Red Cross, Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), National Guard Association, Armed Forces Relief and Benefit Association, Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association, American Veterans of WWII, Korea and Viet Nam (AMVETS). Families whose income has been reduced because a family member is serving in Operation Desert Storm, may be eligible for one or more of USDA's food assistance programs.

### ATTENTION: FAMILIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING IN *DESERT STORM*

If you or your family are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the conflict in the Persian Gulf, you may be eligible for one or more of the following food assistance programs available through your local social services office, your child's school or a health clinic:

**Food Stamp Program:** Provides food coupons to supplement the food buying power of eligible households. (Current gross income must be no more than \$16,510 for a family of four.)

**National School Lunch Program:** Provides for balanced, low cost or free meals to children each school day in most schools. Free meals--current income must be below \$16,510 for family of four.)

**The WIC Program:** Provides additional high nutrient foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and post-partum women, infants and young children up to 5 years of age. (Meet State income eligibility standards and be at a nutritional risk.)

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program:** Provides foods for eligible recipients. (Meet State income eligibility standards.)

**Child and Adult Care Food Program:** Provides Federal funds and USDA-donated foods to non-residential child care and adult day care facilities.

**IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OR MORE OF THESE PROGRAMS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY OR SCHOOL.**



Provided as a public service of the  
U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Food and Nutrition Service

February 14, 1991

Dear Friday Letter:

An editorial comment about your February 8, 1991 issue, more specifically the Speaking personally... and its accompanying chart on the teleconference:

- Over 75% reported that their knowledge of the WFD increased.

Well that statistic is an obvious conclusion of dubious distinction. It certainly would be expected that one's knowledge of a matter would be increased after an all day session on it!

- Nearly one-third reported that they are now more supportive of the initiative than before the teleconference.

The figures from the five categories listed in the evaluation results only average 26%. Taking out HQs, the average only comes out to 27%. That is hardly "Nearly one-third." A little stretching of the stats here!

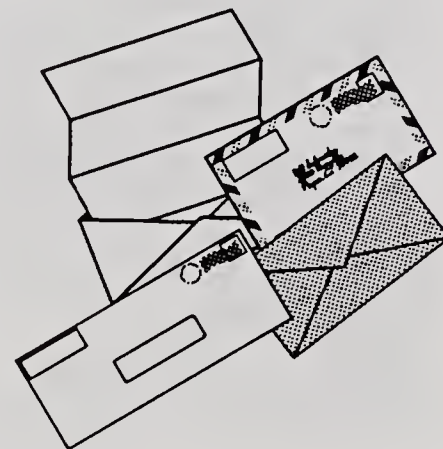
It can also be said that only 24% found the teleconference worthwhile. Without HQs, its just 26%.

Its also interesting that although HQs returned the smallest percentage of evaluations (28%), HQs provided the greatest percentage of comments (78%), and were the most skeptical - that says something. So also does the statement "That's okay-we're moving forward in this area positively and productively, and there will always be room on the bandwagon no matter when people want to jump on!" In other words, FNS will go ahead with this whether the staff want to or not, whether the staff feel its truly a positive or productive step or not and we all should jump on the "bandwagon" whether we feel it is worthwhile or not!

The statistics and comments do show that there is a concern regarding a quota system and a possible (more than possible) negative effect on white males if that is the case.

Statistics are what you make of them and can be made to sound positive or negative very easily, hence the above. FNS staff will come to their own conclusions after reading the evaluation results; we don't need an inflated view of what the results are. Is FNS really seeing the results?

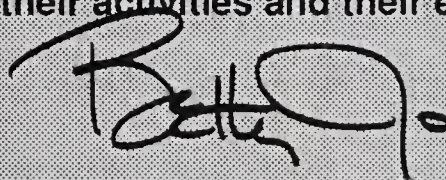
A concerned and skeptical FNS employee.



## Letters to the Editor...

## Speaking personally...

I'd like to add my congratulations to the FNS employees who were commended by Secretary Yeutter through the Points of Light Initiative for their volunteer activities in the community. Congratulations to Evie Ashmore, Sharon Bates, Rosa Bell, Monica Blattner, Bart Bushmen, June Claiborn, Don DeBoer, Willie McWashington, John Merz, Darlene Sanchez, Ron Ulibarri, and Marsha and Rafael Zambrano of the Mountain Plains Region, Susan Hilberg of the Mid-Atlantic Region, Paul Kath of the Minneapolis Computer Support Center, and Carl Castle, Pat McHenry, Martha Poolton, and Dale Wingo of Headquarters. I salute their activities and their efforts to make the world a better place to live in!



## FROM THE HEALTH UNIT...

- Here's a calendar some of you may want to keep handy!
- Don't forget--CPR Training is Feb. 28th!
- Also, a wellness program on PMS will be held March 7, and 12-13 will be the Health Risk Analysis. Please call the Nurse for more info on 756-6000.
- May is National Fitness Month and lots of activities are being planned, so you keep you eyes and ears open!

### WOMEN'S PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE CALENDAR

TYPE OF CHECKUP	TEENS	20's & 30's	40's & 50's	LATER YEARS
BLOOD PRESSURE	Every time you see a doctor	Every time you see a doctor	Every time you see a doctor	Every time you see a doctor
WEIGHT	Every time you see a doctor	Every time you see a doctor	Every time you see a doctor	Every time you see a doctor
BREAST SELF-EXAM	Every month	Every month	Every month	Every month
BREAST EXAM BY DOCTOR	Every time you see a doctor	Every time you see a doctor (at least annually)	Every year	Every year
MAMMOGRAM (BREAST X-RAY)		One baseline screening at age 35 (earlier if family history of breast cancer)	Every one to two years during your forties; every year after age 50	Every year
PELVIC EXAM	Every year after 18 (earlier if sexually active)	Every year	Every year	Every year
PAP SMEAR	Every year after 18 (earlier if sexually active)	Every year	Every year	Generally every year
STD SCREENING	As often as your doctor deems necessary	As often as your doctor deems necessary	As often as your doctor deems necessary	As often as your doctor deems necessary
RECTAL EXAM WITH STOOL TEST	Every few years	Every year	Every year	Every year

*\*This calendar represents general health-maintenance guidelines. Consult your physician to develop a plan that meets your individual needs.*

# Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
Systems Accountant (3 positions may be filled)	(A)	GS-0510	12/13	03/04/91	91-41	ACD
Secretary Typing	(A-LCA)	GS-0318	5/6	03/04/91	91-42	FDD
Management Analyst	(G-LCA)	GS-0343	12	03/05/91	91-43	PED
Food Program Specialist	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0120	7/11	03/04/91	91-44	FDD
Food Program Specialist	(A-LCA)	GS-0120	9/11	03/04/91	91-44 A	FDD
Secretary Typing	(A-LCA)	GS-0318	3/4/5	02/25/91	91-H-06 *	HNIS
Personnel Mgmt. Spec.	(G-LCA)	GS-0201	12	03/26/91	91-45	PED
Food Program Specialist	(FNS-Hq)	GS-0120	12	03/25/91	91-46	CND
Food Program Specialist	(A-LCA)	GS-0120	12	03/25/91	91-46 A	CND
Computer Prog. Analyst	(A-LCA)	GS-0334	7	03/18/91	91-47	IRMD
Nutritionist	(A-LCA)	GS-0630	12	03/18/91	91-48	NTSD
Food Program Specialist	(FNS-Hq)	GS-0120	12	03/18/91	91-49	PDD
Food Program Specialist	(A-LCA)	GS-0120	12	03/18/91	91-49 A	PDD
Nutritionist	(A)	GS-0630	12	04/15/91	91-50	NTSD
Secretary Typing	(A-LCA)	GS-0318	5	03/18/91	91-51	FDD
Budget Officer	(A)	GM-0560	15	03/18/91	91-52	BUD
Math Statistician	(A)	GS-1529	12/13	03/26/91	91-H-12	HNIS

## AREA OF CONSIDERATION

- (A) - All Sources
- (A-LCA) - All Sources, Local Commuting Area
- (FNS-HQ) - FNS Headquarters Wide
- (G-LCA) - Governmentwide - Local Commuting Area
- (HNIS-W) - Human Nutrition Info. Service - Wide

\* - Reannounced

## OFFICE LOCATION

- ACD - Accounting Division
- CND - Child Nutrition Division
- IRMD - Info. Resources Management Division
- FDD - Food Distribution Division
- NTSD - Nutrition and Technical Services Division
- PED - Personnel Division
- HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
- BUD - Budget Division
- PDD - Program Development Division

**Darlene L. Barnes, Editor  
and Desktop Design**  
**Pamela D. Faith, HQs Photography**

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## Upcoming Events

### February

- 24-26 - FRAC National Conference, Arlington, Virginia
- 26 - Toastmasters Meeting, 9th Flr. Conf. Rm.
- 25-3/1 - Regional Personnel Officers Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 27 - Potluck Luncheon for Black History Month
- 28 - CPR Training (get those 182's in!)

### March

- 5 - Toastmasters Meeting, 4th Flr. Conf. Rm.
- 7 - Wellness Program on PMS, 2:00, 6th Flr. Conf. Room
- 12-13 - Food Stamp Program Directors' Mtg., Baltimore, MD
- 13 - Health Risk Analysis, call Health Unit , 756-6000.